Tourism facilities in Kerala

144. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any proposals for improving the tourism facilities in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it includes the transfer of "Pathiramanal Island" to some private hotel owners;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details regarding the total number of hotels under ITDC transferred to the private sector?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Development and promotion of tourist Centres/ places is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations themselves. However, Central Department of Tourism provides funds on the basis of projects prioritised every year in consultation with them.

(b) For the year 2001-2002, 16 projects for central financial assistance of Rs. 1395.00 lakhs have been prioritised.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Based on the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission, the Government has decided to disinvest ITDC hotels by way of either handing over on a long term structured contract on lease-cum-management basis or through sale of 100% Government shareholding. The entire matter of disinvestment is being dealt with by the Ministry of Disinvestment.

In pursuance of the Government decision, the property offered for sale includes Kovalam Ashok Beach Resort in Kerala.